

## Monica R. Martinez Suffolk County Legislator, 9th District Courthouse Corporate Center 320 Carleton Avenue, Suite 4300 Central Islip, NY 11722 (P) 631.853.3700 (F) 631.853.3568

**CONTACT:** <u>lisa.pinkard@suffolkcountyny.gov</u> <u>vanessa.zepeda@suffolkcountyny.gov</u> <u>luis.montes-brito@suffolkcountyny.gov</u>

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## Legislator Martinez is Honored as a 40 Under 40 Rising Star

<u>Albany, NY;</u> Legislator Monica R. Martinez was honored as a 40 Under 40 Rising Star by the Hispanic Coalition of New York at Albany on March 22, 2014.

The 40 Under 40 Rising Stars program recognizes members of the Hispanic/Latino community under the age of 40 who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments and achievements in the areas of business, education, politics, non-profit sector, community service, and more. The Rising Stars have demonstrated a quality of performance that indicates a dynamic presence of leadership that differentiates them from amongst their peers.

"It is an honor and I am humbled to receive this distinguished award," stated Legislator Martinez. Legislator Martinez added, "I owe much of my success to my family. My parents and siblings have always been by my side, encouraging me and allowing me to make my own decisions. They have had confidence in everything I have participated in. I come from a family of faith, values and determination. I acknowledge the trials and tribulations my parents endured when they immigrated to the United States and I did not want that to be taken for granted."

The ceremony represented encouragement as well as it built hope for the overall future of Latinos. It was a successful event with a myriad of Latino achievers across the State of New York including a former student of Legislator Martinez from the Brentwood School District. The old cliché "it is a small world" proves to be true; even amongst the Rising Stars.

The success of the event was evident. As the group disseminates from the historic gathering, they take back to their individual communities the very drive that allowed them to soar. In turn, the Rising Stars will inspire others to rise to their individual plateaus of greatness.



(Photo: Legislator Martinez and Ms. Miranda-Arias from NY Hispanic Coalition)